Assistance from Foreign countries to tide over floods

2621. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought assistance from foreign countries who had successfully combated floods to tide over the difficulties similar to those arising out of recurrence of floods every year in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) A collaboration project is being executed by the Central Water Commission with the assistance of the Danish Hydraulic Institute which envisages transfer of technology in the Damodar River System. In addition, the Ministry of Water Resources have programmed for scientific and economic cooperation with several countries such as the USA and China, who have similar problems, to exchange experts and share experiences with a view to tide over the difficulties arising from the recurrence of floods. The UNDP is also assisting the Central Water Commission to set up a flood forecasting system for the river Yamuna.

Documentary on harmful effects of smoking

2622. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to produce documentary films to educate people against the harmful effects of smoking;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to impose restrictions on advertisements for cigarettes in newspapers or through banners and boards;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) and (b) Films Division produced a film in 1981 named "The decision is yours". The film establishes the fact that smoking is one of the chief causes of cancer and exhorts the people to give up the habit of smoking for good. In 1978 Films Division accepted a donated film titled "Tobacco habits and oral cancer" depicting how oral cancer is contacted by regular tobacco chewing and smoking. The Division also produced in 1980 the documentary "Conquest of Cancer" dealing with the symptoms of cancer and preventive measures in initial stages. These films are for theatrical exhibition throughout the country.

(c) and (d) According to the Code for commercial broadcasting over All India Radio and Code for commercial advertisement on Doordarshan, advertisements on cigarettes and tobacco products are not permitted over All India Radio and Doordarshan. As far as advertisements in newspapers or banners and boards on cigarettes are concerned, they are not under the control of the Government. However, these advertisements are also obliged to carry the statutory warning "Smoking is injurious to health", under the provisions of the Cigarette (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1975.

(e) Does not arise.

Pending irrigation projects

2623. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI S.W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of irrigation projects—major or medium which are still pending with the Ministry due to their not being cleared by the department of Environment and Forests;

(b) the time since when these are pending; and

(c) what steps are being taken to clear the projects at an early date?